

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 TEL AV 01224 261600Z
ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W
-----030179 261605Z /40

O 261536Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 860
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T TEL AVIV 1224

EXDIS HANDLE AS NODIS

FOR SECRETARY FROM LEWIS; JERUSALEM FOR USDEL

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV IS EG
SUBJ: MEETING WITH BEGIN: CAIRO TALKS

1. DURING MEETING ROY ATHERTON AND I HAD THIS MORNING WITH BEGIN, DAYAN, AND WEIZMAN (SEE SEPTELS) BEGIN ASKED THAT I PASS ON TO YOU THE FOLLOWING PIECE OF INFORMATION. HE SAID GENERAL TAMIR (WHO, YOU WILL RECALL, WAS LEFT HOLDING THE FORT IN CAIRO) HAS THE IMPRESSION THAT THERE MAY BE SOME MOVEMENT IN THE EGYPTIAN POSITION ON SETTLEMENTS. HE HAS HAD A TALK WITH TWO EGYPTIAN GENERALS WHO, HE SAID, HAD INDICATED THAT "PERHAPS" SOME ARRANGEMENT ON SETTLEMENTS COULD BE REACHED. BEGIN SAID THE ISRAELIS KNEW NOTHING MORE THAN THIS, BUT IT WAS A RAY OF HOPE AND HE WANTED TO SHARE IT WITH YOU.

2. I TOOK THE OCCASION TO TELL BEGIN THAT IT WAS OUR IMPRESSION THAT SOME VERY PRECISE ORDERS HAD BEEN GIVEN TO THE EGYPTIAN PRESS IN REGARD TO ESCHEWING ANTI-SEMITIC AND PROVOCATIVE ATTACKS. BEGIN SAID HE WAS RELIEVED TO HEAR IT AND LAUGHINGLY REMARKED THAT NOW THE EGYPTIAN
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PRESS WAS ONLY ATTACKING HIM AS PRIME MINISTER, NOT PERSONALLY. THIS WAS OK WITH HIM. IT WAS, AFTER ALL, A PROFESSIONAL RISK THAT WENT WITH THE JOB. THE ONLY THING HE HAD TRULY RESENTED WERE THE ATTACKS ON HIM AS A JEW.

3. IN VERY BRIEF EXCHANGE CONCERNING CURRENT STATE OF

DISCUSSIONS ON THE DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES, ATHERTON TOLD BEGIN HE EXPECTED TO BE GOING TO CAIRO ON MONDAY OR TUESDAY TO PURSUE THE SUBJECT. THEY AGREED THAT ROY NEEDED NOTHING MORE FROM THE ISRAELIS AT THIS STAGE, THOUGH ROY MADE CLEAR HE ASSUMED HE WOULD BE RETURNING TO JERUSALEM WITH SOME EGYPTIAN COUNTER PROPOSALS. BEGIN SAID HE WOULD LOOK FORWARD TO HEARING FROM HIM AS SOON AS HE RETURNED, PRESUMABLY TOWARD THE END OF NEXT WEEK. ROY EXPRESSED HIS APPRECIATION FOR BEGIN'S AGREEMENT TO INCORPORATE THE WORD "RIGHT" INTO THE ISRAELI LANGUAGE FOR PARA 5.

4. CLEARLY, BEGIN ASSUMES WEIZMAN WILL RETURN TO CAIRO AFTER THE CABINET MEETING HERE ON SUNDAY. LEWIS

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LAND SETTLEMENT, PRESS COMMENTS, MEETINGS, MILITARY OCCUPIED AREAS, CAT-B
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978TELAV01224
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: EXDIS HANDLE AS NODIS, FOR SECRETARY FROM LEWIS; JERUSALEM FOR USDEL
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: P840137-2111, N780002-0111
Format: TEL
From: TEL AVIV
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780117/aaaaaofi.tel
Line Count: 76
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 49bc70df-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NODS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS, EXDIS
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS, EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3705256
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MEETING WITH BEGIN: CAIRO TALKS
TAGS: PGOV, PBOR, SOPN, IS, EG, US, (BEGIN, MENACHEM)
To: STATE CAIRO MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/49bc70df-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014